

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

- Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A device for handling a liquid sample, said device comprising:
at least one flow path ~~and~~;
at least one zone for receiving the sample, ~~and~~;
a transport or incubation zone, ~~wherein said device further comprises; and~~
a sink ~~with a capacity of receiving said liquid sample and supporting or controlling the flow rate of said sample through said transport or incubation zone, said sink comprising an area having projections substantially vertical to its surface;~~
wherein said sink has a capacity to receive said liquid sample and support or control the flow rate of said liquid sample through said transport or incubation zone.
- Claim 2 ~~1~~ (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said sink is adapted to respond to an external influence ~~for regulating its capacity~~ to regulate the capacity of said sink to receive said liquid sample.
- Claim 3 ~~2~~ (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one flow path comprises two or more flow paths ~~are provide~~, each of said two or more flow paths connected to one sink, respectively, said device adapted to perform multiple analyses on one liquid sample.
- Claim ~~[[4]]~~ ~~3~~ (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one flow path comprises two or more flow paths ~~are provide~~, each of said two or more flow paths connected to one and the same sink, said device being adapted for performing multiple analyses on one liquid sample.

- Claim 5 4 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 3, where two or more flow paths are provided, each connected to one sink respectively, wherein said device being is adapted for performing multiple analyses on one sample , wherein to perform said multiple analyses are performed in parallel.
- Claim 6 5 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 4, where two or more flow paths are provided, each connected to one and the same sink, wherein said device being is adapted for performing multiple analyses on one sample , wherein to perform said multiple analyses are performed in parallel.
- Claim 7 6 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is adapted to accept a serial addition of multiple compositions ~~multiple reagents, buffers, etc can be serially added to a flow path.~~
- Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~said sink being adapted to respond to external influence regulating its capacity to receive said liquid sample,~~ wherein the said external influence regulating the capacity of said sink to receive said liquid sample ~~is chosen among~~ is selected from the group consisting of heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infra-red infrared irradiation, vibration, and the application of an electronic current.
- Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~1~~ 8, ~~said sink being adapted to respond to external influence regulating its capacity to receive said liquid sample,~~ wherein the external influence regulating the capacity of said sink to receive said liquid sample ~~is chosen among heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infra red irradiation, vibration, and the application of an electronic current,~~ wherein the said sink can be divided is adapted for division into sub-sections sub-sections, said sub-sections suitable for adapted to being serially subjected to said external influence.

- Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said sink, or a sub-section thereof, is ~~heated~~ capable of being heated to evaporate said liquid sample there from.
- Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~one or more flow paths~~ at least one flow path is in fluid connection with ~~the~~ said sink ~~are chosen among and is selected from the group of flow paths consisting of a flow path~~ formed as a capillary groove or open channel, a flow path formed as a closed capillary, and a flow path formed as a tortuous path through a fibrous material or through a gel-like material.
- Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~one or more flow paths~~ said at least one flow path is in fluid connection with ~~the~~ said sink, and wherein said at least one flow path ~~comprise~~ comprises areas having substantially vertical projections.
- Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~1~~ 12, ~~one or more flow paths in fluid connection with the sink~~ comprise ~~areas having substantially vertical projections~~, wherein said vertical projections have different cross ~~section~~ sections in different zones of ~~the~~ said at least one flow path.
- Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said device further comprises a design feature to prevent back flow of said liquid sample ~~is prevented by suitable design of the at least one flow path, the cross section of the substantially vertical projections, an external influence chosen among heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infra red irradiation, vibration, and the application of an electric current, or a combination thereof, acting on at least part of said flow paths.~~
- Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one or more reagents, said method comprising: wherein the sample is added to a device according to any one of ~~claims 1-14.~~

adding a sample to the device of claim 1 and
reacting said sample with one or more reagents.

- Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one or more reagents, said method comprising: ~~wherein said reaction is performed on a device according to any one of claims 1-14.~~
reacting a sample with one or more reagents on the device of claim 1.
- Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A method for handling liquid samples, wherein a the device ~~according to any one of claims 1-14~~ claim 1 is used.
- Claim 18 (New) A method of pre-treating a liquid sample, prior to performing a chemical or biochemical assay wherein the device of claim 1 is used.
- Claim 19 (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein said design feature is selected from the group consisting of vertical projections having different cross sections in different zones of said at least one flow path, and an external influence selected from the group consisting of heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infrared irradiation, vibration, and application of an electric current.